

Minutes
King County Rural Forest Commission
February 20, 2002
Mercerview Community Center

Commissioners present: Gordon Bradley, Doug Shrenk (representing Rudy Edwards), Louis Kahn, Bill Kombol, Ken Konigsmark, Fred McCarty, Doug McClelland, Dave Warren

Commissioners absent: Jean Bouffard, Steve Ketz, Matt Mattson, Andrew Schwarz

Exofficio members: Steve Boyce, Lori Grant

Staff: Kristi McClelland, Jenna Tilt

Guests: Lee Kahn

Doug McClelland called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Chair Report

Doug read an e-mail from Benj updating everyone on his progress through Chile.

Introductions were made for Doug Shrenk attending for Rudy Edwards. Doug is the Environmental and NEPA Coordinator for the south half of the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie Forest.

Doug mentioned that with the advent of Evergreen Forest Steve Ketz finds his time at regularly scheduled Weyerhaeuser meetings has greatly increased. Steve wondered if changing the Rural Forest Commission meetings to the first or second Wednesdays of the month might work for everyone else. He still wants to be actively involved but also didn't wish to burden anyone. The group decided the second Wednesday would work for all present. It was put to a vote. After the March meeting (which will remain March 20th due to a previously scheduled public comment session) meetings will be held the second Wednesday of the month.

March 20th will be the next meeting date followed by April 10th

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Minutes Approval

Motion 1-202 "To adopt the January 16th, 2002 minutes as written. Moved, seconded and approved.

Strategies for Preserving Forestry in King County

Lori Grant distributed a draft report, "Strategies for Preserving Forestry in King County", which she explained fulfills R-521 of King County Comprehensive Plan 2000 directing the Executive to work with stakeholders to develop mechanisms promoting and conserving forestry and forestland and report findings and recommendations to the King County Council.

Lori reviewed the various measures that were considered in the KCCP 2000: limit development to lots of 10 acres or less, prohibit residential on newly created lots, create overlays for pockets of small properties within the FPD, allow only lots within a set distance of existing development to be developed as homesites, restrict the minimum lot size for residential use to 160 acres.

Owners of smaller parcels had quite an outcry of concern over the first three. Weyerhaeuser came forward in response to the later and said they were in negotiations that would be very favorable to the county, but that the 160 acre limitation would significantly change potential value of their property causing them to withdraw from negotiations. They requested that a one-year hold be placed on any action during which they (and Plum Creek) would agree not to subdivide within the FPD. In that year King County was to come up with supporting evidence for taking action and proposed mechanisms to apply within the FPD.

Lori reviewed the research that went into the report and the decisions behind the strategies that were included.

Dave Warren felt that the Evergreen Forest potential now puts pressure on the remaining forested properties. Fred McCarty felt the language should reflect 160-acre minimums for homesites. Ken Konigsmark felt strongly that if no regulatory approach was taken a huge window opens on July 31st for segregation of forestland. Doug McClelland pointed out that up until now segmentation within the FPD had not been done to a large extent. He felt there was potentially far more value to continue to work under good faith.

Debate was around the likelihood of extensive segmentation to 80 acre parcels and what change in land values might result. The ability to use TDR within the FPD and the value of that tool for conservation was also discussed. Getting the agreement extended was also explored. It was generally agreed that compensating willing landowners for the value of their land was the most effective tool. Potential for using some transfer of development value through "four-to-one" types of strategies was introduced. Lori asked for the Commission to review the report and send her any comments, added values or potential strategies by March 1st.

Everyone shared in the opinion that the report provides a valuable compilation of history and research into forest issues within King County.

New Council Members

Ken Konigsmark met with Julia Patterson, Carolyn Edmonds and Dow Constantine and has a meeting scheduled with Kathy Lambert. Julia Patterson and Carolyn Edmonds are very interested in the landscape and very new to the larger rural and resource issues. They are very open in saying they have a lot to learn and want to support forestland. There is need for education around the values of forestry and working forests. They also need to know what tools are available to help conserve forestry and forestland.

March 8th there will be a tour for Jane Hague in the MTSG and Evergreen Forest. Friday there will be a tour with Representative Dunn and Senator Murray. In July will be the International Conservationists symposium.

Field tours for new council members and staff, and Pam Bissonette and Daryl Grigsby would be helpful. The other important thing to assure is that the message is consistent and complete. Messages should be supportive of forestry and forestland managers. A list of talking points was requested. Ken will report back on the next round of tours. Everyone will make initial lists of potential talking points.

Asset Stewardship Plan

Doug McClelland showed a PowerPoint program of WA DNR's developing asset stewardship planning. There has been significant evolution in ownership patterns, development and population over time. WA DNR has not done a comprehensive look at how to manage their lands within the framework of those changes until now.

The maps showing ownership changes over time reflect a strong gain through voluntary landowner actions in conserved forest landscape.

The plan is intended to share knowledge amongst staff that is not gathered in any one location; knowledge about the landscape, local communities, growth management act constraints, partnership opportunities, stakeholder involvement and desired future conditions. The plan will then help share that information across the department and with other partners and stakeholders.

South Puget's plan covers King, Pierce, Kitsap and some of Mason counties. There are significant differences in strategies between the counties and depending on regional conditions. The plan will identify and address unique site conditions and habitats. It will

also assess how forest management has been impacted by the current development conditions in any given area. Public use classification is also determined through this process. As well landscapes of interest are identified. Inholdings are identified for acquisition strategies.

Existing acquisition tools, new tools and new partnerships need to be identified. The public must be engaged in the planning and processes. Public education of forestry and forest management is critical.

Attendance Trends

The commission needs to take a more aggressive stance to assure regular attendance. Dave Warren mentioned that there was an existing rule. It was agreed that that rule should be enforced. Doug as chair said he would take the lead.

Presentation to Board of Natural Resources

Dave Warren reviewed his presentation to the Board on the Vashon Forest Cooperative. It was very well received. Doug Sutherland directed Bruce Mackey to get together with the Vashon Forest Cooperative to see how WA DNR might help.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.